Sale of toddy by females.

93. ❋ MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received a resolution passed in the Abkari Contractors' Association of the Quilon, Kottarakara and Pattanapuram taluks, requesting the Government to prevent females from selling toddy in toddy shops?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The answer is in the negative.

PRESIDENT: We will now pass on to the questions posted for today.

Recovery of contribution on irrigation works.

99. ❋ MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the steps taken by them on the recommendation of the Minor Irrigation Committee that the claim of the Government for the recovery of a contribution towards the cost, or of a cess based on the cost of irrigation works, must be waived until further notice; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that, owing to the insistence of this right by the Government, the progress of the execution of irrigation works is delayed, since the procedure under the Irrigation Regulation has to be passed through before the commencement of the work?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) The amendment to the Irrigation Regulation based on the recommendation of the Minor Irrigation Committee is under consideration. The point raised will also be considered along with the said amendment.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know when the report of the Minor Irrigation Committee was submitted?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): In 1931 it was forwarded to Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the reason for the delay of four years in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee to amend the Irrigation Regulation?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*): It was decided that the amendment will be taken up only after the Irrigation Division Officer had gained some experience in the work. As the Division is new, it is considered too early to make any amendments in the Regulation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know how many years' more experience must be gained by the Division Officer before steps are taken for acting upon the Irrigation Committee's Report?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): That will depend upon the Irrigation Officer's Report.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether it depends entirely upon the report of the Irrigation Division Officer?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*) : Yes, mainly

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : In view of the fact that, in answer to part (*b*), Government admit that the progress of the Irrigation work is being delayed owing to the insistence of this right, may I know whether that provision will be suspended until the amendment is brought forward ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : No, I cannot promise that. In many instances, Government have waived their rights for the recovery of the cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether there is delay in the matter of execution of irrigation works which are urgently required for agricultural purposes ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Government are doing irrigation works even now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether the provisions that stand in the way of speedy progress of irrigation work will be suspended ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I do not think that there is anything which stands in the way of speedy progress of irrigation works.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : In view of the fact that it is admitted in answer to part (*b*) that delay is caused owing to the insistence of this right by the Government to levy the cess, may I know whether that will be suspended ?

PRESIDENT : The Chief Engineer has said that in many such cases Government waive their claims.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : My question is not with regard to the waiving of the claims but with regard to the suspension of the provision of the Irrigation Regulation which stands in the way of speedy work being carried out ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I cannot say that it is feasible. Government have waived their claims in many instances.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know at least a few cases in which it has been actually waived ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : In irrigation works in the taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel and Kalkulam.

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is it only in those Taluks that the provision of the Irrigation Regulation for the collection of cess is waived ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : The member asked me instances of the waiving of claims by the Government and I have given some such instances.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Do the Government realise that the question of agricultural indebtedness is connected with the minor irrigation work ?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from Government whether, so far as the Neyyattinkara and Vilavancode taluks are concerned, the Government have waived or done away with this right of contribution from the people?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I cannot answer that now; I claim notice.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Triandrum—Urban*): Is the Irrigation Division Engineer in charge of the duties of maintaining Irrigation tanks in good repairs now?

MR. G B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes, for those tanks in charge of the P. W. D.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): May I know for how many years the Public Work Department was connected with the Irrigation work in Travancore?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I claim notice.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I know whether the Government have accepted the recommendation of the Minor Irrigation Committee regarding the lines on which the Irrigation Regulation must be amended?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): These are being considered.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I know whether the Government have accepted those recommendations?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I cannot say with any certainty.

Irrigation and drainage in punja fields.

100 * MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Irrigation Department has investigated into the necessity of repairing and constructing proper drainage and irrigation channels in the *punja* fields of Vettiyar, Thazhattu, Pulimel, Podikkad, Peruvalyachal, etc.; and

(*b*) whether it has been noticed by the Department that the proper cultivation of the above *punja* fields requires the immediate construction of the canals?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but the cost is prohibitive.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): With reference to answer to part (*b*) may I know the extent of land that will be benefitted by the repair of the channels that are referred to in the question?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I think it will be about 400 acres.

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